

IN RECOGNITION OF HARDIN
WATKINS

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Hardin Watkins' recent retirement as City Manager of Burlington, North Carolina.

With his retirement on March 4, 2022, Mr. Watkins ended a 32-year career in public service. For the past six of those years, he has diligently worked to better the lives of the people of Burlington. Residents and city employees alike will miss his wealth of experience and institutional knowledge.

A native of Hendersonville, North Carolina, Mr. Watkins attended the University of North Carolina where he earned both his Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy Analysis and his Masters of Public Administration. After completing his education, he accepted a position as a city planner in Bennettsville, South Carolina. He was soon offered a new challenge in Decatur, Georgia, where he was hired as an assistant to the city manager. Mr. Watkins was rewarded for his hard work and dedication to the communities he served, and he was offered the position of City Manager of Suwanee, Georgia. However, after nearly a decade in that role, he returned to his home state in 2007 to manage the Town of Garner, North Carolina. Finally, in 2016, he was hired as the City Manager of Burlington.

The breadth of his work to improve the City of Burlington is remarkable. Within his six years at the helm of city government, Mr. Watkins was instrumental in creating the city's Economic Development Department, establishing the Community Police Advisory Team, and launching Link Transit in Burlington. Residents of Burlington will also be thankful for his efforts to restore the city's antique Dentzel carousel and overhaul the city's publicly owned golf course.

Although Mr. Watkins has begun a new stage of life, he does not intend to idle in his retirement. Instead, he intends to continue his long record of improving communities. But perhaps most importantly, he will have well-deserved time to spend with his family.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Hardin Watkins for his three decades of public service and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

TRINITY GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Trinity Garcia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Trinity Garcia is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Trinity Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perse-

verance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Trinity Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SHADOW WOLVES ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5681 the Shadow Wolves Enhancement Act, to authorize the reclassification of the tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as the "Shadow Wolves") in the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation as special agents.

The "Shadow Wolves" are a Native American tactical patrol unit assigned to Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) unit in Sells, Arizona located on the Tohono O'odham Nation and was established by Congress in 1974.

These officers specialize in the interdiction of human and drug smugglers in the rugged terrain of the Sonoran Desert.

Under this bill, Shadow Wolves serving in these positions would be reclassified as GS-1811 special agents.

As GS-1811 special agents, these officers would gain the statutory authority to carry firearms, conduct searches & seizures, make arrests, and receive a pay increase from an average of \$37,000 a year to \$50,000.

Under existing authority, "Shadow Wolves" can only be hired as tactical officers at a lower paygrade, and those who wish to become HIS special agents receive no special consideration, which has caused pay and mobility limitations.

Due to these limitations, the Shadow Wolves program is at risk of becoming non-operational as officers retire.

There are currently eight Shadow Wolves employed by ICE, five of whom meet the training requirements for conversion to the new pay status.

The Act would also require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to retain existing Shadow Wolves, recruit new officers to the unit, and expand comparable units along the Canadian and Mexican borders.

One year after the development of the strategy by the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) would be required to submit a report, as well as annually for the following 2 years, that will assess the effectiveness of this strategy and provide recommendations for improvement.

I would like to personally thank the eight members of the Native American Tactical Patrol Unit in the Tohono O'odham Nation for their work on preventing human trafficking and drug smuggling along our borders. Their work is of vital importance to the security of our Nation and our citizens.

And on behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I would also

like to thank all tactical enforcement officers from the United States Secret Service, United States Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations.

It is our duty as Members of Congress to ensure that these officers are receiving fair pay for the hard work that they have undertaken.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to vote in favor of H.R. 5681, the Shadow Wolves Enhancement Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
JENIFER JEAN WRIGHT JOHNSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the life of Jenifer Jean Wright Johnson. Jean passed away on February 6th, 2022.

Jean was born on January 25, 1938, in Rockledge, Alabama. She attended classes at Jacksonville Teachers College on the GI Bill and met her husband, Earl "PeeWee" Johnson at a school dance.

The two were married on March 5th, 1957, at West Side Baptist Church. They were blessed with four children.

After Jean graduated college, she worked as a substitute teacher. She took a job at Johnston Junior High in Anniston as the physical education teacher responsible also for the cheerleaders and girls' sports teams.

A few years later, she was approached by church elders and city council members from Jacksonville to start a low-income day care program. She worked to help raise funding to update the former Eastwood High School as well as working with the State of Alabama help secure funding.

On September 30, 1970, the Jacksonville Day Care Center opened and also created a summer program. Jean took over as Director of East Alabama Child Development Centers and was responsible for over 20 day care centers across 11 counties.

Jean had a heart for children and a great love for accessories. She will be missed.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Jean's life of service.

DHS BASIC TRAINING ACCREDITATION
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5616, the "DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2021" which addresses issues involving accreditation and law enforcement training, research, and development at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

This bill requires DHS to report annually to the congressional homeland security committees on the accreditation status for each basic training program within DHS.